UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION SERVICE
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YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD

For the week of March 24, 1947

(Topics of the Week:
March Crop Report
Walnuts
Spare Stamp 53 Expires 3/31/47
Plentifuls

ANNOUNCER: Here is YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD...a program designed to keep you informed on factors affecting your daily food supply, and brought to you by Station _____, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Our studio guest today is _____ _____ of the Production and Marketing Administration office in _____. Good (morning) (afternoon), _____. What's new?

PMA: Hello, _____. Well, spring has officially arrived, for one thing.

ANNOUNCER: Sure enough. But if I know you, you've got some deep motive for that remark, other than just passing the time of year.

PMA: It's getting so I can't get away with anything around here. Although in my business, I must admit that spring means more than just the end of winter.

ANNOUNCER: Ha! I knew it. I'll bet you're thinking of planting time, and all the nice, local fresh vegetables and fruits you'll be able to talk about in a few months.

PMA: You've just about hit it. Although I do intend to talk about those things right now...with some facts from the latest crop report. Of course, it's too early to do much talking about local crops, except milk and eggs, perhaps. But just the same, crop production anywhere in the country affects the food supply of families everywhere.

ANNOUNCER: I suppose it's pretty early to tell whether we're going to have another year of bumper harvests.

PMA: Yes, that would be pure guesswork. But the crop report shows that the 1947 season is starting normally, whereas in the past two years, things were farther along at this time.

ANNOUNCER: That sounds sort of bad...or does it?

PMA: It's both good and bad, depending on where you live. You see, the cold winter weather hung on later this year in most sections. So in northern States, it means that fruit buds, for example, are developing normally --- with less danger of damage from a sudden, late cold snap. The same is true for grain.

ANNOUNCER: I'd guess, then, that the cold weather wasn't so good in the southern areas.

PMA: A good guess, too. Citrus and early truck crops were severely damaged by cold weather in February.

ANNOUNCER: So what does it all add up to?

PMA: Fortunately, it adds up very well. For example, winter vegetable crops in the South and Southeast, despite the damage, look as if they'll run about 15 percent above average. However, production may be 12 percent less than last year.

ANNOUNCER: Doesn't sound like a calamity, though.

PMA: No. Now, spring crop acreage in the South has been cut down...probably about 9 percent under last year. But it's still 10 percent above the 10-year average. Incidentally, most of the reduced acreage was taken out on onions and lettuce.

ANNOUNCER: You said the report also covered eggs and milk...

PMA: And so it does. The latest complete figures are for February, and show that egg production was about 4 percent less than the same month last year. However, production was 31 percent above average.

ANNOUNCER: Just a matter of curiosity, how many eggs were laid in February?

PMA: To be exact...4 billion, 800-million.

ANNOUNCER: I don't expect to remember the figure...I was just curious.

PMA: Well, if you're curious about milk too, the crop report says that February production totaled 8-1/2 billion pounds.

ANNOUNCER: If I were a mathematician, I could put all those eggs and all that milk together, divide the total by the population, and come up with a glass of egg-nog.

PMA: Rather than wait around for that, let me just say that milk is the only item we've talked about that shows an increase compared to last year. We had 3 percent more milk than in February, 1946, and 9 percent more than the 10-year February average.

ANNOUNCER: You know, _____, sometimes I wonder what's going to happen around 1950. I mean, by then these years of record farm production will be figured in the 10-year average. So that by 1950 production might be considered as below average, even though it may be above the pre-war average...Does that sound as confused as I am?

PMA: Pretty near. I think I know what you mean, but I don't dare try to explain it again, because I'd probably just cloud the issue further.

ANNOUNCER: Then let's skip 1950 for about three years, huh? To sum up your remarks on the crop report, though,

ANNOUNCER: (continued) it appears that those few items reported this early in the year are all above average in quantity although most of them are a little bit under last year. All of which should be a good clue to some of our food supplies.

PMA: Speaking of supplies of foods, there's a rather large quantity of walnuts here in the Northeast.

ANNOUNCER: Say that sounds good to an old nut-cracker like me. But I thought most nuts were pretty well gone by this time of year.

PMA: They usually are, _____. This year, however, there's an estimated carry-over of walnuts...that's walnuts in the shell...of about 26 million pounds. That's roughly one-third of the entire 1946 crop.

ANNOUNCER: Then let's bring them out into the open. While there are nuts to be had I want to get my share. By the way...those are English walnuts, aren't they...the thin-shelled ones?

PMA: That's right...they call them English walnuts although they're grown mainly in California. These nuts make mighty fine nibbling, but food specialists tell us they're a pretty good food, too. You know they rate the same spot in our food plans as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and dried beans and peas, and peanuts.

ANNOUNCER: As I understand it meat, fish and poultry products supply us with proteins.

PMA: That's right.

ANNOUNCER: Well you mean, then, that nuts do the same thing for our bodies as poultry, fish, and meat?

PMA: Home economists have found that nuts contain useful amounts of protein. However, nuts are more often considered as a source of fat. Walnuts are about 60 percent fat. We're told they also supply B vitamins...especially thiamine...and a little iron and calcium.

ANNOUNCER: I can see where you've just lost a large walnut following. Milady who's trying to streamline her figure will surely steer clear of walnuts if they're a source of fat.

PMA: Hold on now, _____. Fats are a necessary part of everyone's diet. Too many folks think fats are merely a source of calories for energy. They're partly right, but they don't know the whole story.

ANNOUNCER: Then fats have another job.

PMA: Absolutely. Food specialists point out that fats perform certain functions for health and well-being that no other kind of food can take over. Fats also give dishes a "rib sticking" quality...make meals stay with you longer.

ANNOUNCER: Another good thing about walnuts...they have such a distinctive flavor that they pep up uninteresting dishes...give them personality.

PMA: They do, indeed. In fact most nuts make bland dishes not only more nourishing, but they also improve the taste. I understand that quite a few recipes call for chopped nuts. Just take a look at most any cook book. In the index under "nuts" you'll find a pretty long list.

ANNOUNCER: Well, that's a bit of research I'll leave for the distaff side. Reading cook books always makes me hungry. There is something I'd like to delve into, though. If there are 26 million pounds of walnuts in shells, how many pounds would they equal without their shells?

PMA: Since neither one of us is a mathematician, let's take it another way: We have a pound of English walnuts. How much do we have left after we throw the shells away? The answer is...a little over a cup and half of halved kernels.

ANNOUNCER: And now for a little third-grade arithmetic. Since we have 26 million pounds of walnuts in shells, that means there'd be about...ah...let me see --- one and a half times 26 is 39---Imagine 39 million cups of shelled walnuts.

PMA: I wonder how long it would take to shell them all by hand.

ANNOUNCER: If you shelled them all by hand you'd probably eat about 9 million cupfuls while you work. There's one thing you can say for walnuts, though, they are easy to shell.

PMA: They certainly are. Parlor athletes crack them merely by squeezing a couple together in their hands. Or you can place a walnut on a block of wood and hammer it lightly on the side or shoulder, and presto---nutmeat.

ANNOUNCER: Well, now that there are plenty to be had, I'd think homemakers would be wise to use English walnuts often...especially since they're a flavorful, nutritious food.

PMA: So much for nuts. Before we sign off I'd like to suggest to homemakers that they will also be wise if they use their sugar ration stamp 53 before it expires on March 31.

ANNOUNCER: That's right, the end of the month is nearly here.

PMA: It'll be upon us before we realize it. You may recall that spare stamp 53 was formerly good until April 30. When the sugar situation showed signs of improving, spare stamp number 11 was declared valid as of April 1 for ten pounds of sugar.

ANNOUNCER: Ten pounds, eh. And how long will spare stamp 11 remain good?

PMA: Until September 30.

ANNOUNCER: Let's see---that's April, May, June, July, August, September---ten pounds of sugar for six months.

PMA: It's not as bad as it sounds, though. Another ten pounds may become available around the first of July. That is, barring any unpredictable disaster. You know Cuba and Puerto Rico are grinding large amounts of sugar cane. Right now they're approaching the peak of the grinding season...and sugar is moving into the United States in large quantities.

ANNOUNCER: In other words, if all goes well, we should have about twenty pounds of sugar up to September 30. Does that include canning sugar, _____?

PMA: Yes, it does. Previously OPA issued special rations of sugar for canning. This year there'll be no special canning sugar ration. It will be up to the homemaker to decide how she'll use her sugar. But if she plans to put up some fruits this summer --- and I certainly hope everyone will --- then my advice is go a little easy on the sugar bowl.

ANNOUNCER: However, right now I suppose the most important thing for the busy housewife to do is to make sure she uses spare stamp 53 before April 1.

PMA: Certainly, if she wants to get her family's share of sugar.

ANNOUNCER: And now, _____, what about the plentiful fruits and vegetables flowing to market?

PMA: Well, there are no startling developments this week, but I think folks 'll be interested to know that there are really good supplies of mushrooms on some markets.

ANNOUNCER: That's a cue to start dusting off their favorite mushroom recipes. What other good news do you have?

PMA: Iceberg lettuce is just about as plentiful now as it will be before we start getting shipments from the West Coast in the late spring and summer.

ANNOUNCER: And I suppose there're still lots of potatoes.

PMA: Yes, and cabbage too. Carrots are plentiful on practically all markets, and so are turnips. There are also good supplies of onions, sweetpotatoes, cauliflower, and celery.

ANNOUNCER: What about the fruit fare for this week?

PMA: Apples are still bountiful, and so are the citrus due, oranges and grapefruit. And I guess that just about paints the whole picture.

ANNOUNCER: Thanks for dropping in today, _____. Our guest this _____ was _____ _____ from the _____ office of the Production and Marketing Administration. Be with us again _____ for another session of YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD.

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